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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Docket No.: 623-3001

In re Application of CHOATE, Gary E., et al.

PCT No.:

PCT/US00/27754

U.S. Serial No.:

09/831,131

Examiner:

International Filing Date:

October 6, 2000

Art Group:

FOR:

CONFINED SPACE ENTRY DEVICE AND A RELATED METHOD OF

ASSEMBLY

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

SIR:

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on: What I do 2 by: Eller Well

vame: PCCIV (X. (printed)

Please amend this patent application as follows and examine the application in view of the amendments and remarks provided.

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-15 and substitute the following claims:

- 1 16. (Newly added) A man-rated device to which a person is removably secured, the device for
 2 use with an associated structure which the person intends to access, the device comprising:
 3 multiple, modular components dimensioned to be man-rated when
 4 assembled, the components including a base and at least one, elongated,
 5 substantially cylindrical member, the base having an element adapted to be mounted in
 6 operative proximity to the associated structure, the member formed substantially from at
 7 least one material selected from the group consisting of aluminum, carbon fiber
 8 composites, KEVLAR fibers, fiberglass, and aluminum-ceramic composites;
 - the member having one end removably secured to the base
 without being welded thereto, the other end of the member having means for removably